

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY S/NM:DHERNST

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 260992

FOR AMBASSADOR SHELDON B. VANCE

FOLLOWING REPEAT LA PAZ 7718 ACTION SECSTATE DATED 1 NOV 75

QUOTE

UNCLAS LA PAZ 7718

AIDAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: PASA AG/BOL/727-26-75, COCA CROP SUBSTITUTION

PILOT PROJECT

REF: STATE 255349

1. MISSION FINDS STAFFING PROPOSED IN REFTTEL NOT REPEAT NOT ADEQUATE OR APPROPRIATE FOR CARRYING OUT PROJECT. WE STILL BELIEVE ARRANGEMENTS AND TYPE OF STAFFING SET FORTH IN PIO/T NO. 511-11-995-727.1 ARE MOST APPROPRIATE FOR PROJECT. IN VIEW OF TIME THAT HAS ELAPSED SINCE ISSUANCE PIO/T AND OBVIOUS DIFFICULTY OF USDA IN FINDING SUITABLE PERSONNEL FOR THE PROJECT, MISSION BELIEVES AID SHOULD LOOK ELSEWHERE FOR STAFFING; THEREFORE WE REQUEST CANCELLATION PIO/T AND PASA ARRANGEMENTS. WE SEE NO PURPOSE IN VISIT OF FISHCLER.

2. BEINHART TDY WILL BE CONCLUDED AT LATEST NOVEMBER 13.

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3. MISSION HAS RECEIVED EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FROM CENTER FOR TROPICAL AGRICULTURE OF UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA IN PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSSITANCE NECESSARY FOR THE PROJECT. BECAUSE OF NEED TO MAKE PROGRESS IN STAFFING IN SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME (GIVEN LONG DELAY IN PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND INCREASING IMPATIENCE ON PART OF GOB) WE INTEND TO EXPLORE FURTHER IN NEXT COUPLE WEEKS WITH UNIVERSITY WHAT PERSONNEL MIGHT BE AVAILABLE AND HOW SOON THEY CAN BE ON BOARD. IF PROGRESS CAN BE MADE WITH UNIVERSITY WE SHALL REQUEST AID/W'S APPROVAL OF OUR ENTERING A CONTRACT WITH THE UNIVERSITY WITHOUT GOING THROUGH PUBLIC REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS.

4. IN MEANTIME WE REQUEST AID/W TO EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE SOURCES (WHETHER DIRECT HIRE OR CONTRACT) FOR PERSONNEL TO STAFF THE PROJECT. WE SHOULD LIKE TO STRESS THAT RESEARCH AGRONOMISTS/HORTICULTURISTS SHOULD HAVE FIELD RESEARCH EXPERIENCE, INCLUDING WORKING WITH EXTENSIONISTS IN TRANSFERRING RESEARCH RESULTS TO COOPERATING FARMERS FOR FIELD TESTING AND INCORPORATING FEEDBACK INTO ONGOING RESEARCH, AND THAT THE AGRICULTURE ECONOMIST MUST BE PRODUCTION-ORIENTED WITH CONSIDERABLE KNOWLEDGE FARM MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING.

5. IN FOLLOWING UP ON OUR REQUEST IN PARA. 4 AID/W MIGHT WISH TO CONTACT FOLLOWING RECENT AID RETIREES WHO SEEM TO US PROBABLY WELL QUALIFIED TO WORK ON THE PROJECT:

HAROLD KOONE, SAMUEL LITZENBERGER, DAVID ROBERTSON, AND ALFREDO ENRIQUEZ.
STEDMAN
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KISSINGER

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